WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing communication services, comprising:

receiving a request from a hearing-impaired party for establishing a communication link;

identifying a communication assistant;

forwarding the request to the communication assistant;

establishing, by the communication assistant, a communication link to the hearing-impaired party using a text messaging program;

receiving a telephone number from the hearing impaired party, the telephone number being associated with a hearing party;

establishing, by the communication assistant, a voice link with the hearing party;

receiving, by the communication assistant, voice messages from the hearing party via the voice link;

generating text messages, by the communication assistant, the text messages corresponding to the voice messages; and

transmitting the text messages to the hearing-impaired party.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the request from the hearing-impaired party is transmitted via a wireless device.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the communication link between the hearing-impaired party and the communication assistant comprises a persistent, full duplex link.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving, by the communication assistant, text messages from the hearing-impaired party; and

transmitting, by the communication assistant, voice messages to the hearing party, the voice messages corresponding to the received text messages.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the request from the hearing-impaired party is a request for a socket connection received via a packet-switched network from a device executing a text messaging program.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the request from the hearing-impaired party is received via the Internet.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the voice link from the communication assistant to the hearing party comprises a voice over Internet Protocol link.

8. A system, comprising:

a server configured to:

receive a request from a wireless device associated with a hearing-impaired party for establishing a communication link to a hearing party,

identify a first communication assistant, and

forward the request; and

a first device associated with the first communication assistant, the first device being configured to:

receive the request from the server,

establish a full duplex communication link to the wireless device,

communicate with the hearing-impaired party, via the wireless device, over the full duplex communication link using a text messaging program, and

establish a voice link with the hearing party.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the first device comprises a workstation, the first device being further configured to:

receive voice messages from the hearing party via the voice link,

transmit text messages to the hearing-impaired party, the text messages being input by the first communication assistant and corresponding to the received voice messages,

receive text messages from the hearing-impaired party via the wireless device, and

transmit voice messages to the hearing party, the transmitted voice messages corresponding to the received text messages.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the request from the hearing-impaired party is a request for a socket connection received via a packet-switched network.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein the request from the hearing-impaired party is received via the Internet.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein the first device is further configured to establish the voice link from the first communication assistant to the hearing party using voice over Internet Protocol.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein the first device is further configured to:

establish a conference call between the hearing-impaired party, the first communication assistant and the hearing party, the conference call utilizing voice over Internet Protocol.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the conference call is configured to link the hearing-impaired party, the first communication assistant and the hearing party in at least one of a hearing carry over environment, a voice carry over environment and a speech-to-speech environment.

15. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of sequences of instructions, said sequences of instructions including sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause said processor to:

receive a request from a wireless device associated with a hearing-impaired party, the request being associated with establishing a communication link to a hearing party;

establish a communication link with the wireless device party using a text messaging program; and

establish a voice link to the hearing party.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, including instructions for further causing the processor to:

receive voice messages from the hearing party via the voice link;

transmit, in response to received voice messages, text messages to the wireless device, the text messages corresponding to the voice messages;.

receive text messages from the wireless device; and

display the text messages.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, including instructions for further causing the processor to:

receive voice messages from the hearing party via the voice link;

automatically generate text messages corresponding to the voice messages;

transmit the text messages to the wireless device;

receive text messages from the wireless device;

automatically generate voice messages corresponding to the received text messages; and

transmit the voice messages to the hearing party.

18. A system, comprising:

means for receiving a request from a wireless device, the wireless device being associated with a hearing-impaired party and the request being associated with establishing communications with a hearing party;

means for forwarding the request to a communication assistant; and

means for establishing a full duplex data link between the communication assistant and the wireless device.

19. The system of claim 18, further comprising:

means for receiving text messages from the wireless device;

means for transmitting voice messages corresponding to the text messages to the

hearing party;

means for receiving voice messages from the hearing party; and

means for transmitting text messages corresponding to the voice messages to the wireless device.

20. A method, comprising:

receiving a telephone number from a wireless device associated with a hearing-impaired party, the telephone number corresponding to the telephone number of a first party;

establishing a full duplex data link with the wireless device; and

communicating with the hearing-impaired party via the wireless device over the full duplex data link using text messages.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the communicating comprises:

automatically translating text messages received via the full duplex data link to voice messages, and

transmitting the voice messages to the first party.

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

receiving voice messages from the first party;

automatically translating the voice messages into text messages; and

transmitting the text messages to the hearing-impaired party via the full duplex data link.

23. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

communicating with the hearing-impaired party by transmitting image data to the wireless device.